

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method of using a dispersion or solution as adhesive, sealant, or impregnating composition, comprising:  
providing the dispersion or solution having a pH of less than 4;  
increasing the pH of the dispersion or solution to more than 4; and  
applying the dispersion or solution to a surface in need thereof, wherein the  
dispersion or solution is a dispersion or solution of a polymer in water, organic solvent or mixtures thereof, wherein the polymer comprises at least 0.001 mol of 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups, calculated at 109 g/mol, per 100 g of polymer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the dispersion or solution is stored oxygen-free prior to use and comes into contact with oxygen only upon use.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the use takes place under water.

Claims 14-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the dispersion or solution is an aqueous dispersion or solution.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the polymer is a polymer obtained by free-radical addition polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated compounds.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (New): A method of using a dispersion or solution as adhesive, sealant, or impregnating composition, comprising applying said dispersion or solution to a surface in need thereof, wherein the dispersion or solution is a dispersion or solution of a polymer in water, organic solvent or mixtures thereof, wherein the polymer is a polymer obtained by free-radical addition polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated compounds and wherein the polymer comprises at least 0.001 mol of 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups, calculated at 109 g/mol, per 100 g of polymer.

Claim 22 (New): The method of using according to claim 21, wherein the dispersion or solution is stored oxygen-free prior to use and comes into contact with oxygen only upon use.

Claim 23 (New): The method of using according to claim 21, wherein the use takes place under water.

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Claim 24 (New): The method of using according to claim 21, wherein the dispersion or solution is an aqueous dispersion or solution.